

TRIBUTE TO OFFICER RYAN P.
BONAMINIO

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 15, 2010

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a hero from my congressional district, Ryan P. Bonaminio, a Riverside Police Officer and Army veteran. Today I ask that the House of Representatives honor and remember this incredible man who died in the line of duty while serving and protecting his community.

On Sunday, November 7, 2010, Ryan was shot after pursuing a driver of a stolen vehicle, and who was also suspected of a hit-and-run in downtown Riverside. Bonaminio became the first City of Riverside police officer to die in the line of duty in ten years. He was two weeks shy of his 28th birthday.

Officer Ryan Bonaminio was born in Riverside, California on November 25, 1982. He is survived by his parents, Joseph and Geraldine Bonaminio, along with his brother Christopher and sister Nicole. After graduating from Ramona High School in 2000 he joined the U.S. Army. He served with the 314th Military Police and served in Kuwait City, Baghdad, Mosul and Umm Qasr in southern Iraq. He also served in the 282nd Base Support Battalion in Hohenfels, Germany. After his honorable discharge from the Army, Ryan returned to Riverside and joined the Riverside Police Department on July 7, 2006, and graduated from the San Bernardino County Sheriffs Academy on December 21, 2006.

Bonaminio served both in the military and in the police force with honor and distinction, and was praised by his peers and supervisors on many occasions. For his outstanding service he had been awarded several medals, including the Army Commendation Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Army Reserve Mobilization Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Army Reserve Overseas Training Ribbon, Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal, and earned his Expert Qualification Badge-9mm pistol.

Friends and family of Officer Bonaminio describe his constant smile and generous heart. His actions on November 7th demonstrate that he was a brave young man who was unwavering in his dedication to protect the community. It is a sad irony to think that Ryan survived overseas fighting for our country on foreign soil, only to come home and be fatally wounded protecting his home community.

The day the Bonaminio family learned of their son and brother's death was probably the hardest day they have ever faced and our thoughts, prayers go out to them. They have our deepest gratitude for their sacrifice and Ryan's service to our nation. There are no words that can relieve their pain and what words we can offer only just begin to convey our deep respect and highest appreciation.

The dangers our police officers face every day often go unnoticed and without remark. Officer Bonaminio's death is a stark reminder of the very real threats that police officers face on a daily basis protecting us and our communities. We will never know what Officer Bonaminio's future would have been but our world is certainly less bright without him in it. We all share in the loss of such a promising,

courageous and truly remarkable young man. The goodness Officer Bonaminio brought to this world and the sacrifice he has made, will never be forgotten.

RITZVILLE'S NORTHERN PACIFIC RAILROAD DEPOT CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 15, 2010

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor Philip Ritz—founder of Ritzville, Washington—and to congratulate Ritzville's Northern Pacific Railroad Depot on its centennial anniversary.

More than 100 years ago, Philip Ritz proposed establishing a great national highway between Lake Superior and the Puget Sound. Philip testified before Congress that the route would be beneficial for transportation of troops, munitions of war, mail and freight. As a result, the Northern Pacific Railroad and Ritzville's Northern Pacific Depot became instrumental in transporting crops, promoting settlers, and creating a community in Ritzville.

Even before the construction of the railroad, in the late 18th century, the Walla Walla valley was known for harvesting over one million bushels of grain, and some of the finest quality peaches, apples, pears, plums, cherries, grapes, and sweet potatoes. These crops, after the railroad was completed, were then transported into national and international markets. With these new markets, Ritzville rapidly became the largest and heaviest grain shipping railroad station in the world.

During this industrial and agricultural revolution, many families took advantage of the thousands of acres lying unclaimed. Densely populated cities dissipated as families moved towards the great Northern Pacific expanse. Combined with timber and lumber now being more accessible by railroad, these settlers were able to build new homes at inexpensive prices.

With the settlers came more vibrant communities. Within the Ritzville community, Ritzville's Northern Pacific Railroad Depot served as the town center. The depot agent was in charge of issuing marriage licenses and serving as the notary. Often times, important events were held in the waiting room such as polling during elections, social activities, and church services. The Depot quickly became the most important building in the town.

Today, Ritzville's Northern Pacific Railroad Depot serves as an important reminder of the role the railroad once played in farming, school, business, and town development in Ritzville, WA. Thanks to Philip Ritz, the depot was the focal point for all rail-related trade for more than 60 years. My fellow colleagues, please join me honoring Philip Ritz and congratulating Ritzville's Northern Pacific Railroad Depot on 100 years of excellent service.

HONORING FORMER WEST VIRGINIA HOUSE OF DELEGATES MEMBER BEATRICE "JACKIE" WITHROW

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 15, 2010

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, Jackie Withrow was an angel for the ages. She was Florence Nightingale, Susan B. Anthony and Eleanor Roosevelt all rolled into one.

If the Almighty had to pick a day to open Heaven's Gates for Jackie, none could be mean more meaningful than Veteran's Day for no one cared more or worked harder for our veterans. One estimate credited Jackie with 27,500 hours of service to our veterans.

I am sure that number would pale in comparison to all she really did over her lifetime of dedication to our veterans, taking them to church services on Sundays and planning new ways to serve them at all hours.

Many people blaze trails, and Jackie accomplished that but made sure others were able to follow her.

Jackie was always known for breaking new ceilings for women. She cared about that, of course. But I think she and the women who supported her and followed in her footsteps were proudest of the issues on which they could command attention in their day, like health care. Health care was on Jackie's radar screen from the beginning—for our miners, our children, and those needing mental health services.

Senator Bill Wootton led the charge to make sure we would forever be reminded of her trailblazing leadership by appropriately naming a hospital for her.

Bill spoke of "Mercy" and "Justice" to describe Jackie's contributions to us. To those we must surely add, "Commitment" and "Dedication."

Her public service never wavered. Although she served in our state's legislature for a generation, her longest public service was as a good citizen and dependable neighbor.

Long out of office, Jackie continued opening doors of opportunity and opening the eyes of the rest of us. Always with a warm heart and determined will, Jackie Withrow changed our world for the better.

Jackie's lasting legacy to each of us was her fierce loyalty to what she believed in the most—the "least" of us, as Christ taught. And, we recall the loyalty of Ruth in the Old Testament as we celebrate Jackie's loyalty to those who needed her hand and hope the most:

"Do not press me to leave you
or to turn back from following you!
Where you go, I will go;
Where you lodge, I will lodge;
Your people shall be my people and your God
my God.

Where you die, I will die
There I will be buried.
May the Lord do thus and so to me
And more as well
If even death parts me from you!"

Next to my family, Jackie was my earliest and strongest supporter. I will celebrate Jackie's life the rest of my days. I know countless others will never be far from her firm hand of friendship, her warm smile of compassion, and that ever present twinkle in her eye of figuring out how she was going to help.